

Spirituality and Law: A Study of Hindu Concept of Marriage through ‘Ardhnarishwaram’

Praveen Kumar Anshuman and Satyender Kumar

Abstract

Homo sapiens is one among many species on earth. That they, unlike other species, have attained the stature of being called as ‘humans’ is only because of the spiritual journey they have taken up since time immemorial. They have escalated to higher degrees of civilization and levels of culture in the past, that too, with a great exuberance and symphony. It was due to the knowledge of the ‘inner self’, that has always kept them guided on how to direct human life settled in a society through which the same inner balance could be achieved and secured in day to day life.

The present paper is focusing on one such dimension of human being’s life, that is, marriage, which, in absence of spirituality in it, has lost all its purpose, and become a ground of battle in today’s time. The bond between man and woman, which, in the past, used to uplift their consciousness with each other’s help to a level where they understood the crest of life realized as divine, has now gone somewhere and taken up the form of a venue where the constitutional legality and the marital laws have become the norms of the day.

In the present scenario, the marriage system lacks any spiritual dimension in it, hence the entire cacophony within its ambit while marriage in the past was a perfect example of a life of harmony between a man and a woman. No law makers could ever bring this perfection of bonding in them unless they themselves understood the intricacies of their relationship and live in concord with each other.

The paper will thus attempt to delineate the reasons of many human follies due to which restoration of equilibrium in the life of couples in today’s time has simply become almost impossible. It is certain that there cannot be any law which will be able to bring back the healthy bond between the two unless the spirituality is restored within its ambit. The paper will finally talk on the

Dr. Praveen Kumar Anshuman, Associate Professor, Department of English, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, Delhi – 110007 Email: pkanshuman@kmc.du.ac.in

Dr. Satyender Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of English, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, Delhi –110007

concept of marriage in the past vis-à-vis 'what's spirituality', the concept of *ardhnarishwaram*, modern psychological dimensions, constitutional marriage laws, the concept of love, the polyandry, the rape incidents, etc. in order to irradiate the missing thread in today's marriage system, and thus how they may be restored for the benefit of the entire generation of today's time.

Keywords: *Marriage, Law, Legality, Chaos, Spirituality, Harmony*

Marriage is a system that has most probably developed in the species of the *Homo sapiens* unlike other species; in no other species any such thing does not seem to exist as it does in the communities of human beings. What is worth cogitating here is that it is a system which is human specific and thus are the reasons which have to be accounted in their proper spirits and demands. Adam Augustyn write that "marriage, a legally and socially sanctioned union, usually between a man and a woman, that is regulated by laws, rules, customs, beliefs, and attitudes that prescribe the rights and duties of the partners and accords status to their offspring (Adam Augustyn, 2021). Barring the system of marriage, there are many other aspects which too are human specific; counting a few on fingers will be like the language, religion, science etc.

Human Specific Worlds

Linguistically, it has been observed that there is a very limited development of language in the animal kingdom; communication definitely happens among them, but within a much contracted periphery. Human beings have developed it in such multidimensionality that it is still a matter of research and study on how the language continues playing major parts in human lives. Language is one such phenomenon that has endlessly generated utterances in continuum, giving away with exclusivity to be attached with this system in any way. This is why the debate around language is so exhaustive in nature, decoding which is expected to reveal what remains or gets covert in the process of deliberation when one attempts to communicate the desired in the desired format or motif (Crystal, 356). Language enigmatically keeps functioning in all the spheres of human life, contradicting all forms of fabrication in human life.

Spiritually, the religion is something to do with, if taken in an Indian context, the wordless zone; it has connection with the language of no-mind; it is a world in which words simply fail to perform, and as a result what is grasped is the esoteric dimension of life in which each single human entity is trapped or settled (Ralph Slotten, 1977). Religion thus is the world of the inner whereas the commonly

perceptible ambit it has been in is the intrinsic where its performative yardsticks are paradoxically in full display. But that is where religion plays a great role in human life while being absent in any form in the community belonging to other species in the world.

Scientifically, what becomes very significant in human life is the idea of invention which has been said for necessity to be the mother of invention. But when it is conceptualized within the circumference of cerebrum only, what conspicuously comes as a result is the unilateral and monographic world the human beings get beleaguered by. The cerebrum does not admit the relevance and existence of the incognitive perspectives which are very much true in human life, for they exist in human world as the entire race has continued evolving with the passage of time since thousands of years. But in all cases science may at times be certain of things, but its very base is the dubiousness, which enable people to question and keep moving.

What comes out as a factor is that the human world unlike others has many specific development in its species, which are natural, existential and sequential. If the evolution process is kept aside, appreciating the race shall not be possible in the right spirit.

The Natural System of Law

Keeping in view the natural evolution that kept the process on since ages, this is axiomatically discerning aspect to think on the side of spontaneity. The human evolution deepened the cerebrum capacity of human beings; the other part of the mind, which in itself, is esoteric, platonic, and non-Euclidian, has also gone through the experiences of the inner most possible recesses in human life. All this development in the human life was happening effortlessly; meaning thereby is that human beings were no more a better species that the other species like animals. But certain changes in the body and their movements simply changed the whole picture. And human beings started experiencing the empirical as well as the intuitional faculty of mind or being in them and it was due to such development the humanity at large started becoming a segregated fragment in the entire races that were present on earth. Today, it is not difficult to distinguish this species crystal clearly from other ones.

With the development, both the parts came under the consciousness of human beings. There were people who in this endeavour could have understood the ways of life and thus moved in while being naturally in the process of the search this particular species was geared up existentially. Needless to say, how it has been found that human beings

have evolved from being a fish to ow being a full-fledged human form (Tim Vernimmen, 2021). When the corporeal evolution was happening, at the same time was happening the revolution at the level of consciousness, which in the past many mystics have experienced within their own search for the truth of life. The changes at the level of the body were affecting the world of the mind; the world of the mind was affecting the world of the spirit. All this was happening, for the entire gamut of life is one single phenomenon like an ocean of which all other waves are a part. One that has in fact got diversified in many.

The Indian Knowledge System of Life

It was the result of the evolution of human race, the Indian Knowledge system came into existence. The same also resulted into the Western knowledge as well, but the angles were different. The journey which kept searching itself on the spheres of evolution came to be known as western whereas the journey which focused on the dimension of revolution came to be known as the Indian system of thought. This is why Indian knowledge system brings revolution at the level of human consciousness, which may be said to be 'a quantum leap' from the mundane affairs of life.

The inner world unlike the outer and the language is a cosmos of no-language. Language is very much human, and human beings in the Indian ethos are the part of universal consciousness, and unless the same is realized, there is no satiation anywhere to be acquiesced in experience. Still, in all this process, what has been the most significant is the law which human beings discover and kept floating in its revering flow.

What we have named as the Indian Knowledge system is the methodology which in the process of human growth the people working on the inner dimensions have discovered. At the level of the experience, it was *Sat-Chid-Anand*, that is, "Being, Consciousness, Bliss" (Acharya Debi, 2021); it was peace of mind; it was the most sacred experience; it was so to say the harmony and the symphony with the constellation of existence, confluence of the opposites, and the full orchestra of life in equilibrium without an iota of thought pertaining to the cataclysmically catastrophic yardsticks. Experiencing life in all its exuberance, beauty and ecstasy intrinsically gives way to a human life a system putting into which bring all these together. Different people working in different directions have devised different ways of the world, through which the wordless is experienced. It is therefore to be acknowledged that the human life attains to culmination through

different paths, but the goal that is achieved is one, the harmony within and without.

Law – The Inner and the Outer

When life is experienced in total harmony, it is not certain that each and every human endeavour will result in the same. The cacophony in the world or the complete mess that is evident around us is the outcome of different levels that make an attempt to achieve what has been achieved by people who have uplifted their life or sublimated their consciousness or gone deeper in dormant dimensions of life. Every one of us has distinctiveness of exclusive kind; each one of us is matchless in that sense. This uniqueness of individuality has also been recognized by the people for the past, and the result was the *varnasharam*. Not going in the detailed discussion about the system of varna, it is pertinent to cogitate here on the aspect of the how one particular thing becomes outer and other things become inner, how they overlap and exchange, and how they cooperate and coexist.

In all this endeavour, human life has attained to the process of life in utter spontaneity, which created a path travelling which was exploring the path of harmonious ecstasy for those who were able to move on it, but rest, who could not, were automatically trapped in trying to follow the footsteps of those who reached the destination, the destination of life, or attainment of truth, or rather say the completion of human life, which we may conclude into bliss and saturation.

Life when it was lived on the terms and conditions of what existence offered was a life based on the inner laws, but when it was acquired in order to bring the same life with the tools and terms created by the human cerebrum, it created outer laws, that never brought concord, rather became a reason for discord or disturbance or destitution. The inner life which brought happiness by moving on the natural norms, the outer life brought incoherence and inconsistencies by moving on the norms set by the human mind. So, inner and outer are basically the tussle between natural and the mind-oriented. It is due to this the human life is dichotomised in two parts – inner and outer, intrinsic and extrinsic, East and West, Religion and Science, Philosophy and Darshan, Mind and No-mind, Law and Love, Spirituality and Materialism etc.

Law in any way can never be sacrificed, or we can say we can never have a life without law, for lawfulness has always been experienced by people in life and existence. It is this law that runs the universe, it is this law that has balanced the planets, the stars, the constellations,

galaxies and the whole cosmos. But when the intrusion of mind comes in human life, law is created though in semblance with the natural life's law. But the appearance shall always be misleading unless it is not combined with the true cycle of life. So, the distinction is conspicuously clear that the life's harmony and equilibrium is the goal, which is intended to be achieved. Sometimes, it is achieved naturally and sometimes through efforts. The effortless consciousness becomes the inner law while the action in strenuous efforts become the law outside. The regulatory bodies trying to set human life in harmony rarely succeed in the true spirit, the human life will always if ever achieve the balance whenever the truth experienced within human consciousness is retrieved. Otherwise, the world knows very well what the law legally constituted as per need of the time remains tenable for the time being not giving a proper and true solution to anything. The changes become perceptible outwardly, but inwardly things hardly change the gestalt.

The No-mind and Psychological Dimensions

The naturalness of life slipped its feet off the ground of the mind and rescues in a no-mind state, which refers to experiences mind cannot record. What it means is that there are two world existing simultaneously together – the mind-oriented and the no-mind. When one treks through the no-mind state, one becomes one with the naturalness of life in which one comes in contact with the natural law; it gives way to a mystical life, a life spirituality; a life which knows balance and lives in accordance with the same. But when one goes with the mind, all that one gets is a complex web of the minds, in which one feels one is lost somewhere and there seems no way out from it; this gives way to the study of mind, which we call as psychology and the related things like psychoanalysis, psychosis etc. are its outcome. Psychology which believes that man is not normal; s/he is abnormal. What at most can be done with him/her is to make them abnormally normal. This reflects in each individual's life who is seen around us.

The study of mind brings many pitfalls which are known dexterously by those who bypass it and live a life in harmony with nature and people. This is why the Indian way is to never get entangled with the mind, they rather say to bypass it and know life in its utter nakedness. When entangled with mind, it creates many rules, prescribes many conditions to be followed, all of them having no root in the natural human science or say life. This has given way to occidental as well as oriental philosophy, which need not be talked here for the simple

reason is that the focal axis of this paper is the marriage in human life in relation to law and spirituality.

The two worlds need to reciprocate with each other. The actual track will be from the inner to the outer, from the spirit to the body, from the East to the West, but in our world the vice versa happens. It gives a result which no human beings can digest as it devours out the entire humanity in the name of many havocs which continue victimizing the human life from time to time. The nature when compromised retaliates to set things in the natural order. So, it is clear that the two approaches in human world – the mind-oriented and the no-mind - have created two different worlds, in which the former must have been preceded by the later. As it does not conform to it, we have the complete mess in the world where every stakeholder makes an attempt to set things right, but things become upside down. The no-mind has known the life from an insider's view whereas the mind has been acquainted with it as an outsider. The extrinsic version will automatically fail to perform if it is not allied with the intrinsic.

The Inner law – The Co-operational or Intuitional

Keeping in view the focal concern of this paper, this is to be known that the inner experience of life revealed a psychological truth which the disciple of Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung, proposed about his theories about the unconscious mind. In India, there is a text, *Vigyan Bhairav Tantra*, in which is described as one of the methods on how to attain the inner equilibrium. Even Yoga talks of it, balancing the yin and yang.

What Jung has discovered in our century, the Indian mystics knew thousands of years ago and thus gave the concept of 'Ardhnarishwaram', which simply means that a human personality is made up of two constituents – masculine and the feminine. No man is masculine in absolute sense, no woman does the same. They cannot do it as they come from both, male and female.

Now, it is the no-mind state that has acknowledged it from the inside and comes to know that the meeting if ever has to take place within the human fabric, never without. The anguish in human life is because they do try to adjust, accommodate and acquiesce at the outer periphery, which in itself by very nature is not feasible. The woman and man as the physical entity are the triggers to get into the right soil where the fruits of balance and harmony may be borne. But human life is such as it has no concern with the inner world, hence no knowledge and acquaintance with the inner law and life.

After being familiar with the natural instincts in human personality, the male and female axis have always been used to sublimate, to uplift and to bring concord in life. They both help each other; they become complementary for each other; they supplement all that lacks in the other. They both make the world complete. Either of the two will never be able to conceptualize a world which is total in its circumference, in its spirit and action. It is true for both the realms – within or without. Thus, we see the balance which every one of us is seeking is to be accelerated and geared up from within, rather than doing it from without. When it is done from without, the result shall be the catastrophic. No law shall be able to set things right.

The Outer Law – The Constitutional and the Corporeal

Now we all know that there is attraction between opposite poles. It is because of this the balance and the harmony are secured there. When the knowledge of the inner is lost somewhere or due to any reason, finding out causes for the cacophony between man and woman becomes a herculean task, especially in absence of the knowledge of the inner. It is this fulfilment which is achieved from within, man is seeking woman and woman is seeking man. But unless they attain to an understanding of their own inner self, they will never be able to help each other. It is the knowledge of the inner that brings them to point of departure where they help each other. A better word here would be to use the word 'love' than law, for the law we are familiar with has no place for love as love has its own logic and defies the logistic tools of the empirical faculty of mind.

The world is widely extrinsically carved out. It has no sense of anything called intrinsic. This they read in books as the stories of epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana in which there were people who knew the apex of life which was to result into balancing life. But there too other tussle kept on going between the people of the inner law and outer law. Being absent to the inner world, human beings have to pay irreparably much. As a result, the world we have is full of crackpots and the studies that are performed at many levels to rectify the bonds of love between the two, unexceptionally fail to secure the success; nothing seems to work.

The absent mindedness for the inner world also gives way to many suppressed desires to come up abruptly and make one or the other their prey. In our world, we are able to see how the bond between the two has become fragile; every day there are rape cases; there are molestations, and there are dignities being compromised. To check it or

to set it right, human world is prone to create laws which will keep an eye on them and will come in action when the need arises. This is where the legality of a law or the constitutional verbatim come in full display.

Marriage, A Sacred Bond, Not a Profane One

So far as the bond between man and woman is concerned, it is as sacred as a spiritual experience is. If one studies the psychoanalytic studies of Wilhelm Reich, who made a debatable statement that sex is spiritual, one comes to know an entirely different idea about the relationship between a man and a woman. In India, great Rishi Patanjali has given Yoga to the world for the upliftment of consciousness, for realizing the true nature of human face, and for knowing the existential realities of life. Yoga means sum total of any two things, seemingly like the opposite yardsticks. The two complimentary elements supplement each other and create a holistic zone.

This is also true about the male and female energies. The conjugation which takes place between the two at the corporeal level does not translate itself into anything which might give the human beings sublimating experience which is incessantly desired by them without fail. And then this connects itself with the ancient knowledge system in India explored in the times of Veda-s and Upanishad-s. There is a famous blessing which was usually given to the women of those times when a woman was married. The rishi used to bless that the woman may give birth to ten children and the eleventh child becomes her husband himself (Swaminathan, 2021). This was the greatest blessing that any rishi could ever give to any woman in the human history just for the metaphorical means that it bears.

Generally, we know there are four directions. But if one goes beyond this number, the number of directions have been counted as ten. But Indian knowledge system has the eleventh direction, the direction has nothing to do with any direction going outside like East, West, North, South, North-East, North-West, South-East, South-West, above and below. But the eleventh direction is not outside, but inside; it is not without, but within (Sreeram Manoj Kumar, 2021). Simply said, it goes in. When ones goes in, one finds the balance between the two polar opposites, Yin and Yang, or more specifically, the masculinity and the femininity.

The marriage system in India has been spiritual and law that has been guiding it was love (Shivani Gupta, 2021). The entire beauty and the grandeur that the Indian marriage system ever has was due to the law

that was discovered while trekking through the path of the inner life, in mediation, in awareness, in consciousness. Now, if this basic understanding is missed out by dint of any reason, the law that will be made to govern the life (which used to be governed with the inner doctrines and principals) in the usual human affairs shall fail to do justice. The inner life has to be balanced by the inner law, which is love. And the love that actually governs life is not the love that is brought by the law.

Law of Love and Love by Law

Love is a spiritual phenomenon and if anyone considers it to be something which has anything to do with corporeal world, s/he proves that s/he has no idea about it. Even when a man and woman feels for each other, it is the same love that Upanishad-s or Gita or Veda or Kabira, Mira, Raidas, Jesus talks about. But they fail to understand it and start considering so many other things that they understand in the name of love. It is this understanding that simply mars and spoils all relationships and creates all kinds of nuisance that keep happening in life. It can be said that all the atrocities done to women are because of the misunderstanding about love by all without fail. Not only human beings fail to understand it, somewhere the constitutional law too fails to do the same. There is only law in human life that can ever be and should ever be taken into consideration is love. All other attempts to being love by the implementation by legal laws are failed endeavours.

Legality and the Spirituality

There is no end to laws that are constitutionally granted legality as an accepted rule or provision or rather say norm for the scrutiny of human behaviour. Human beings have cut down the natural flow of life in the name of civilization. That's why the more there are civilized people, the more are the cases of all kinds of evils. In India, there are thousands of rapes cases registered every year. There are thousands of cases of molestation. But this is not the reality. There would be thousands which remain unregistered. There are more and more than any number that goes in the mind. There is no question of getting registered or remain even unregistered; it does not even come into action. But it does happen everywhere, in everybody's mind. Apparently, everyone looks civilized, but when the crime is reported, it becomes surprising that the culprit is always from among those civilized people like. Every one of us complains about it but one of us is always caught. The legality takes consideration of all of us as potential oppressors unless the crime is translated into action and finally proved in the jurisdiction.